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BEDWAS AND MACHEN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# **Annual Report**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

TOGETHER WITH THE

# **Annual Report**

OF THE

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

**For the Year 1955.**



BEDWAS AND MACHEN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# **Annual Report**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**



# **Annual Report**

OF THE

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

**For the Year 1955.**



# BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



## MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :

MAESYCWMMER WARD	...	...	Councillor Mrs. S. J. Graham
			„ G. Phillips
			„ R. Williams
			„ A. E. Gameson
BEDWAS WARD :-	...	...	„ F. C. Dudden
			„ G. Lewis
			„ T. T. Williams
			„ H. Gibbon
TRETHOMAS WARD :-	...	...	„ H. Ludlow
			„ L. Vaughan
			„ S. G. Lewis ( <i>Chairman</i> )
			„ C. Williams
MACHEN WARD :-	...	...	„ E. V. Matthews
			„ G. Beeston
			„ A. Walley
			„ W. H. Perrin



## OFFICERS :-

Clerk of the Council	...	...	W. Ewart Morgan
Medical Officer of Health	...	...	K. P. Giles, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Surveyor and Engineer	...	...	R. Rutley
Chief Financial Officer	...	...	R. Humphreys, A.C.I.S.
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	H. R. Sulway, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I. ( <i>Qualified Meat and Foods Inspector</i> )
Additional Sanitary Inspector	...	...	N.G. Rhodes, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I. ( <i>Qualified Meat and Foods Inspector</i> )
Bankers	...	...	Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd.

## COUNCIL OFFICES,

BEDWAS,

June, 1956.

**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1955.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	approx. 6,200
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	8,712
Estimated Population (R.G. June 1955)	...	...	...	...	...	9,520
Number of Inhabited Houses (31.12.55)	...	...	...	...	...	2,799
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	£53,303
Product of Penny Rate, 1955-56	...	...	...	...	...	£178

**VARIATION IN POPULATION FIGURES**

Year							
1951	(Census Figures)	...	...	...	...	...	8,712
1952	(Estimated Mid-Year R.G. Figures)	...	...	...	...	...	8,765
1953	„ „ „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	8,788
1954	„ „ „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	9,520
1955	„ „ „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	9,520

It can be seen that a gradual rise in the population is apparently ceasing, when 1954 and 1955 figures are noted, and to expand on population figures would need some form of new industrial activities to be introduced in or around the urban area.

**BIRTH RATE.**

LIVE BIRTHS				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	...	167	75	92
Illegitimate	...	...	...	10	6	4
Totals				177	81	96

Birth rate per thousand resident population	...	...	17.54
Rate for the County of Monmouth	...	...	15.29

STILL BIRTHS				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	...	9	5	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
Totals				9	5	4

Still-Birth rate per thousand resident population	...	...	0.94
Still-Birth rate per thousand County of Monmouth	...	...	0.51

**DEATH RATE**

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths from all causes	95	62	33
Rate per thousand population	...	...	9.97
Rate per thousand County of Monmouth	...	...	12.40

**MATERNAL DEATH RATE.**

Deaths from puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	NIL
Deaths from other puerperal causes	...	...	...	NIL

### INFANT MORTALITY

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR					Males	FEMALES
Under 1 Week...	...	...	...	...	0	2
1 to 2 Weeks	...	...	...	...	0	1
2 to 3 Weeks	...	...	...	...	0	1
3 to 4 Weeks	...	...	...	...	0	0
					<hr/>	
TOTAL UNDER ONE MONTH					0	4
					<hr/>	
1 to 3 Months	...	...	...	...	0	0
3 to 6 Months	...	...	...	...	2	0
6 to 9 Months	...	...	...	...	0	0
9 to 12 Months	...	...	...	...	0	0
					<hr/>	
TOTAL UNDER ONE YEAR					2	4
					<hr/>	

#### Infant Mortality Rate.

Bedwas and Machen, per thousand live births	...	...	33.9
County of Monmouth, per thousand live births	...	...	33.96

### DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES

No deaths from Zymotic diseases occurred during the year.



## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

CAUSE	Males	Females
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ... ..	2	0
Tuberculosis (Other) ... ..	0	0
Syphilitic Disease ... ..	1	0
Cancer (Stomach) ... ..	3	2
Cancer (Lung)... ..	2	0
Cancer (Breast) ... ..	0	0
Cancer (Other sites) ... ..	2	1
Leukaemia ... ..	1	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	8	3
Coronary Disease Angina ... ..	15	3
Other Heart Disease ... ..	9	10
Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	5	1
Pneumonia ... ..	3	1
Bronchitis ... ..	2	1
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	3	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	1	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	1	0
Congenital Malformations ... ..	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	1	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	0	2
All other accidents ... ..	2	1
Totals ... ..	62	33

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS OTHER DISEASES

The total number of Notifications of Infectious Disease received during the year was 172, made up as follows :-

Disease							Number of Cases
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total							172

## TUBERCULOSIS

The control of the spread of infection of tuberculosis comes directly under the County Council and every case notified is visited by your Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitor at frequent intervals and every advice and help given at the homes of the patients

Terminal disinfection of rooms and houses which have housed tuberculous patients are carried out by your Sanitary Inspector.

**WARD DISTRIBUTION OF  
INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS**

WARD				Measles	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia
Maesycwmmmer	...	...	...	24	3	0
Bedwas	...	...	...	37	14	1
Tre Thomas	...	...	...	60	15	2
Machen	...	...	...	3	0	0
TOTALS				124	32	3

## TUBERCULOSIS

Cases Notified and Mortality during 1955

Age Period	NEW CASES				MORTALITY			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1 years. ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-10 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-15 ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-20 ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-25 ...	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-35 ...	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-45 ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-55 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 and over ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0

## WARD INCIDENCE

WARD	CASES NOTIFIED		DEATHS	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Maesycwmmmer	0	0	0	0
Bedwas ...	2	2	1	0
Tre Thomas	2	5	1	0
Machen	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	6	7	2	0

**HOUSING.**

Number of houses built and occupied at the end of year is as follows :-

Built by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	8 houses
Others privately built	...	...	...	...	...	3 houses
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Total built during the year	...	...	...	...	...	11 houses

Ward distribution of Council owned houses at the end of 1955, is as follows :-

WARD							Number of Dwellings
Maesycwmmer	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Bedwas	...	...	...	...	...	...	348
Tre Thomas	...	...	...	...	...	...	303
Machen	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
<hr/>							
TOTAL at 31st December, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	942
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I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**K. P. GILES,**

Medical Officer of Health

**SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

COUNCIL OFFICES,

BEDWAS, MON

Junc, 1956

**To The Chairman and Members of the  
Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.**

MR CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending the  
31st December, 1955

**NOTICES SERVED.**

- 1 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Sections 92 and 93)  
(Abatement of nuisances, repairs to property),
 

Intimation Notices	...	...	...	103
Abatement Notices	...	...	...	10
- 2 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Section 83)
 

Intimation Notices	...	...	...	4
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	NIL
- 3 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Section 138) and Water Act, 1945  
Provision of adequate water supply to houses 2
- 4 FACTORIES ACT, 1937
 

Notices Served	...	...	...	...	2
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**HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954**

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	1
Number granted	...	...	...	NIL
Number refused	...	...	...	1

**1 HOUSING ACT, 1936**

Action taken under the above Act, during the year.

**Part A. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936).**

Compulsory Purchase Order placed on 4 houses at Llanarth Street, Machen.

**Part B. Houses not included in Clearance Areas :-**

1. Demolition and Closing Orders (Housing Act, 1936)
  - (a) Houses demolished as a result of Formal or informal procedure under Section 11 ... 1
  - (b) Houses closed in pursuance of Undertaking given by owners under Section 11 ... 1
  - (c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ...NIL

**2. HOUSING ACT, 1949.**

- (a) Closing Orders made under Section 1 ... ...NIL
- (b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Order substituted ... ... ...NIL

**3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Miscellaneous Provisions) ACT, 1953**  
 Closing Orders under Section 10 ... ...NIL

**REPAIRS.**

4. Number of Unfit or Defective houses rendered fit as a result of Informal Action ... ... 67

**Action under Statutory Powers.****5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.**

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :-

- (a) By Owners ... ... 10
- (b) By Local Authority in default ... NIL

**HOUSING ACT, 1936 (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16).**

- (a) By Owners ... ... 1
- (b) By Local Authority in default ... NIL

**HOUSING POSITION**

Since my last Annual Report on the position of houses which, in my opinion, can be dealt with either as "Slum Clearance" or which will be mostly the case, as "Individual Unfit Houses," the Council have agreed that :-

15 houses in the Machen Ward,  
11 houses in the Bcdwas Ward,  
13 houses in the Maescwmmer Ward,

to be dealt with in the first five years' programme

The necessary inspections will have to be made with the purpose of enabling the council to formulate plans to provide accommodation for the families who will be displaced, as there is no provision for housing these families in the council's present house building programme.

There are still a large number of applications for council houses, despite the fact that many houses have been built during the post war years

### **Council Houses.**

It is pleasing to report that the percentage of houses occupied by dirty tenants is very small and frequent visits are paid by me to the people who are inclined to fall below a reasonable state of cleanliness in their houses

Visits for the above purpose during 1955 ... 48

### **Common Lodging Houses**

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the area

### **Water Supply**

The area is served by The Rhymney Valley Water Board and the supply is ample and of a very satisfactory quality

### **Swimming Pools.**

Only one privately owned swimming pool exists in the Maescwmmer Ward and the water is good, but the buildings are falling into a state of disrepair, owing to subsidence

The person in control of these premises has been informed that repairs to these buildings must be carried out or steps will be taken to close the premises

### **Rivers and Streams.**

The River Rhymney flanks the area, practically the whole of the eastern boundary. It is grossly polluted with coal dust from the collieries higher up the valley and close watch is kept for rodent infestation in conjunction with neighbouring authorities



## RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION

The area is regularly patrolled by your Rodent Operator for evidence of rat infestation and any complaints received are immediately investigated and treatments carried out for the extermination of these pests.

Frequent inspections are made to places where rats are likely to frequent, for example, slaughterhouses and refuse disposal tips and any infestation is effectively brought under control.

Two Token sewer treatments were carried out during the year :

1 1st to 31st March, in which :-

- 400 sewer manholes were inspected
- 305 sewer manholes were baited
- 206 sewer manholes showed prebait takes
- 71 sewer manholes showed complete prebait takes

2 1st to 30th September, in which :-

- 342 sewer manholes were inspected
- 300 sewer manholes were baited
- 250 sewer manholes showed prebait takes
- 9 sewer manholes showed complete takes.

These treatments are helpful in that they cut down surface infestation when the rats are destroyed in the sewers.

Treatments of the river banks were carried out with the co-operation of the local authorities adjacent to the area.

Advice and assistance is always readily available from the Divisional Control Officer for which I would like to record my appreciation and thanks.

# RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.  
Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1956.

## TYPE OF PROPERTY

				1	2	3	4	5
				Local Authority	Dwellings including Council Houses	All other including Business Premises	Total of Cols. 1, 2, and 3.	Agricultural
1.	Number of Properties in the District	...	...	6	2,755	295	3,056	44
2.	Number of Properties inspected as a result of :-							
(a)	Notification	...	...	1	47	1	49	1
(b)	Survey under the Act	...		6	1,432	125	1,563	43
(c)	Otherwise	...	...	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
3.	Number of Inspections in- cluding re-inspections	...	...	12	302	41	355	2
4.	Number of properties inspected in 2, found to be infested by :-							
(a)	RATS	Major	...	2	NIL	1	3	1
		Minor	...	NIL	56	NIL	56	2
(b)	MICE	Major	...	1	8	NIL	9	NIL
		Minor	...	NIL	3	NIL	3	NIL
5.	Number of infested properties treated by L.A. (Sec. 4).	...		3	67	1	71	NIL
6.	Total treatments carried out	...		7	69	4	80	NIL
7.	Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	...	...	NIL	2	NIL	2	NIL

No Notices were served under Section 4 of the Act.

## CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING

The collection and disposal of household refuse is carried out by direct labour and an efficient collecting service is carried out twice weekly throughout the area.

The disposal of this refuse is by uncontrolled tipping, and in my opinion, some form of controlled tipping should be considered in the near future, to obviate the nuisances which arise from the present method employed.

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Visits to the food shops and canteens are regularly made throughout the year, and the following is a list of the foods surrendered and condemned :-

NATURE OF FOOD-STUFFS.						Wgt in lbs.
Bacon, Beef and Pork Sausages, Cooked Hams, ...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Canned Meats, Canned Fruits, Canned Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	183 cans
<b>Other Foods :-</b>						
Canned Milks and Cream	...	...	...	...	...	47 cans
Jams and Marmalade	...	...	...	...	...	8 jars
Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	...	2 stones
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	4 cwts
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	29 lbs.
Estimated weight of foodstuffs destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	9 cwts.

## MILK SUPPLY

Number of Retailers of Milk in the area	...	...	...	...	8
Number of Dairies, other than farms	...	...	...	...	2

**Licences issued under Milk (Special Designations) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulations, 1949, and Milk (Special Designations) Raw Milk Regulations, 1949 :-**

Dealers licensed to sell pasteurised milk	...	...	...	...	4
Dealers licensed to sell tuberculin tested milk	...	...	...	...	4
Supplementary licenses to retailers outside the area	...	...	...	...	4

Eight samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. All samples were of a satisfactory standard.

## SLAUGHTERING STATISTICS.

**Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part.**

			Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	...	...	3,545	33	2,292	22,991	9,056
Number Inspected	...	...	3,545	33	2,292	22,991	9,056

**All diseases except tuberculosis  
and Cystercerci**

Whole Carcases Condemned ... 1 NIL NIL 16 18

Carcases of which some part or  
organ Condemned ... 1,132 11 12 1,360 523

Percentage of the number inspected  
affected with disease other than  
Tuberculosis & Cystercerei ... 31.9 33.33 0.5 5.92 5.97

**Tuberculosis Only**

Whole Carcases Condemned ... 4 1 NIL NIL NIL

Carcases of which some part or  
organ Condemned ... 330 6 NIL NIL 230

Percentage of Number inspected  
affected with tuberculosis ... 9.4 21.2 NIL NIL 2.5

**Cystercercosis**

Carcases of which some part or  
organ condemned ... 19 NIL NIL NIL NIL

Carcases submitted to treatment by  
refrigeration ... 19 NIL NIL NIL NIL

Generalised and totally condemned NIL NIL NIL NIL NIL

**MEAT INSPECTION.**

There are four Licensed Slaughterhouses in the area, one of which, The Co-operative Wholesale Society, is the owner, where animals are slaughtered for their considerable wholesale and retail trade.

The additional Sanitary Inspector is employed full-time at this establishment and when Mr. Rhodes (additional Sanitary Inspector) resigned his appointment in the latter part of the year, arrangements were made with my colleagues in the neighbouring authorities to carry out a rota system of inspection, pending the appointment of a new inspector. The system worked satisfactorily and I wish to thank those colleagues for their whole-hearted co-operation.

The three remaining slaughterhouses are regularly visited by myself and the meat inspection carried out.

At the present time, considerable Sunday Work is carried out to ensure the efficient meat inspection and it would be a great advantage if it is at all possible to do away with the slaughter of animals on Sundays, from the inspector's viewpoint.

A considerable portion of my time is taken with meat inspection to ensure a hundred per cent wholesome meat supply to the public.

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

Number of factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	5
Number of Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	6
Number of inspections during the year	...	...	...	10

One preliminary notice was served to cleanse and the requirements of the notice were carried out.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the officers of all the departments in the council for their co-operation in compiling the statistics for this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

**H. R. SULWAY,**

Sanitary Inspector.





